



# Western Canada Immunization Forum 2026

## Event Schedule

## Two Day Virtual Forum

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

<b>9:00am - 9:30am</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome from BCCDC Immunization &amp; Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service — <i>Dr. Jia Hu</i></li><li>• Elder Welcome and Opening Acknowledgement — <i>Glida Morgan, Tla'amin First Nation</i></li><li>• Video messages from provinces</li><li>• BC Deputy Provincial Health Officer Welcome — <i>Dr. Martin Lavoie, BC</i></li></ul>			
<b>9:30am - 10:20am</b>	<b>Respiratory Syncytial Virus Immunization Strategies for Preventing Severe Infant RSV Infections</b> — <i>Dr. Pascal Lavoie, BC &amp; Dr. Jeffrey Wong, BC</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Dr. Pascal Lavoie &amp; Dr. Jeffrey Wong</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review the effectiveness, safety, uptake, cost and acceptability of available RSV immunization strategies to prevent severe RSV infections in infants.</li><li>2. Highlight the evolution and future direction of the RSV immunization program in British Columbia.</li></ol>			
<b>10:20am - 11:05am</b>	<b>Mpox vaccination in Canada: Successes, challenges, and lessons for future outbreak response</b> <i>Dr. Devon Greyson, BC</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Dr. Devon Greyson</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe barriers and facilitators to mpox vaccination in the recent Canadian outbreak.</li><li>2. Recognize the importance of public health/community collaboration in building trust in vaccination.</li></ol>			
<b>11:05am - 11:20am</b>	<b>Break</b>			
<b>11:20am - 12:00pm</b> <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>	<table><tbody><tr><td><b>The Role of Vaccine Safety in Health Services Research</b> <i>Dr. Ellen Rafferty, AB</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Dr. Ellen Rafferty</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand how vaccine safety is integrated into health services research and economic evaluations.</li><li>2. Describe future directions for capturing vaccine safety in health services research.</li></ol></td><td><b>Evolving eligibility for HPV vaccine in Canada: Impact on Alberta Youth Aged 16–26</b> <i>Laura Reifferscheid, AB</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Laura Reifferscheid</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Recognize publicly funded HPV vaccine eligibility policy across Canada.</li><li>2. Examine the potential impact changing policy on HPV vaccine uptake among older adolescents/young adults in Alberta.</li></ol></td><td><b>Transforming School Immunization Processes with Digital Consent</b> <i>Elizabeth Lee, BC</i> <i>Haylie Sinclair, BC</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Elizabeth Lee &amp; Haylie Sinclair</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Determine the rationale and benefits of digital consent for school immunizations.</li><li>2. Describe the digital consent of workflow and user experience.</li><li>3. Identify key considerations for implementation and communication.</li></ol></td></tr></tbody></table>	<b>The Role of Vaccine Safety in Health Services Research</b> <i>Dr. Ellen Rafferty, AB</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Dr. Ellen Rafferty</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand how vaccine safety is integrated into health services research and economic evaluations.</li><li>2. Describe future directions for capturing vaccine safety in health services research.</li></ol>	<b>Evolving eligibility for HPV vaccine in Canada: Impact on Alberta Youth Aged 16–26</b> <i>Laura Reifferscheid, AB</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Laura Reifferscheid</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Recognize publicly funded HPV vaccine eligibility policy across Canada.</li><li>2. Examine the potential impact changing policy on HPV vaccine uptake among older adolescents/young adults in Alberta.</li></ol>	<b>Transforming School Immunization Processes with Digital Consent</b> <i>Elizabeth Lee, BC</i> <i>Haylie Sinclair, BC</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers</b> with <i>Elizabeth Lee &amp; Haylie Sinclair</i> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Determine the rationale and benefits of digital consent for school immunizations.</li><li>2. Describe the digital consent of workflow and user experience.</li><li>3. Identify key considerations for implementation and communication.</li></ol>
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<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Day 1 End</b>			

## Tuesday, February 24, 2026

9:00am - 9:15am	<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Recap</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome from BCCDC Immunization &amp; Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service — <i>Dr. Jia Hu</i></li><li>Elder Welcome</li></ul>
9:15am - 10:50am	<b>Panel Discussion: Measles Outbreaks across Western Canada</b> <i>Dr. Jia Hu, BC; Dr. Rakel Kling, BC (Northern Health), Brittany Deeter, BC (First Nations Health); Dr. Vivien Suttorp, AB; Dr. Jasmine Hasselback, SK; Dr. Davinder Singh, MB.</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers with Panel Members</b> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Outline the epidemiology and transmission of measles in Western Canadian jurisdictions.</li><li>Identify the different approaches to measles case and contact management in the context of increasing case numbers.</li><li>Describe approaches for engaging under-immunized communities in the context of measles outbreaks.</li></ol>
10:50am - 11:05am	<b>Break</b>
11:05am - 11:50am <i>Concurrent Sessions</i>	<b>Improving Immunization Coverage in Newcomer Populations in Manitoba</b> <i>Inga Hossack, MB</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers with Inga Hossack</b> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify the gaps in immunization coverage between continuous and non-continuous residents.</li><li>Describe initiatives that Manitoba has taken to improve newcomer reporting of immunization records into the provincial immunization registry.</li></ol> <b>Boosting Childhood Immunization Rates Through School-Based Access in Kindergarten</b> <i>Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Jag Gill &amp; Lindsay Symonds</i> <i>Island Health, BC Laura Hoyseth, Amber Thomas</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers with Jag, Lindsay, Laura &amp; Amber</b> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe school-based strategies for increasing vaccine uptake at 7 years of age.</li><li>Identify the key steps in implementing kindergarten school-based immunization programs.</li></ol> <b>The complexity of COVID-19 vaccine decisions: Perspectives from diverse populations</b> <i>Dr. Michelle Driedger, MB</i> <b>Questions &amp; Answers with Dr. Michelle Driedger</b> <b>Learning Objectives</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>To unpack 'vaccine hesitancy'.</li><li>To understand some of the drivers that underlie vaccine decisions.</li><li>To identify some vaccine conversation strategies when engaging with diverse populations.</li></ol>
11:50am - 12:00pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
12:00pm	<b>Day 2 End</b>

### Overall Learning Objectives

**Upon completion of the full two-day forum, participants will be able to:**

- Describe new approaches to novel immunization programs such as infant RSV protection, including monoclonal antibodies and maternal immunization.
- Identify mechanisms for improved community collaboration / engagement in the rollout of novel programs like mpox vaccination.
- Distinguish between provincial epidemiology and approaches to addressing measles outbreaks across multiple western Canadian jurisdictions, including British Columbia and Alberta.